



PRESS RELEASE

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POLICE REMIND RESIDENTS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM IDENTITY THEFT

The Greenbelt Police Department is reminding residents to protect themselves from identity theft. Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America, affecting half a million new victims each year. To protect themselves, residents can take the following actions:

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet, unless you are sure who is receiving the information.
- Do not put your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.
- Shred all documents, including pre-approved credit applications, insurance forms, bank checks, and other financial information.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry. Only take what you'll actually need.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles, and check your statements often for fraudulent charges. Also, if you haven't received a bill, it may mean someone has stolen your identity and changed the address on your account.
- Order your credit report at least twice a year. Reports should be obtained from all three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian and TransUnion.

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